

the condition of education 2007



INDICATOR 45

Employment of College Students

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2007*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2007*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007064>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Finance

Employment of College Students

In 2005, about half of full-time and 85 percent of part-time college students ages 16–24 were employed.

The percentage of full-time college students ages 16–24 who were employed increased from 34 to 49 percent between 1970 and 2005. In addition, the number of hours these students worked per week increased. In 1970, some 10 percent of full-time students worked 20–34 hours per week and 4 percent worked 35 or more hours per week; while in 2005, about 21 percent worked 20–34 hours per week and 9 percent worked 35 or more hours per week (see supplemental table 45-1). In the more recent years, 2001 through 2005, there were no measurable changes in these employment percentages.

Between 1970 and 2005, there was no measurable change in the percentage of part-time college students ages 16–24 who were employed. In 2005, approximately 85 percent of part-time college students were employed. However, part-time college students worked fewer hours in 2005 than they did in 1970, with the percentage of students working 35 or more hours a week decreasing from 60 to 47 percent and the percentage working less than 20 hours a week increasing from 5 to 10 percent. In the more recent years, 2001 through 2005, there were

no measurable changes in these employment percentages.

In 2005, the percentage of full-time college students ages 16–24 who were employed differed by sex, race/ethnicity, and school type. Female students were more likely than male students to be employed (51 vs. 47 percent) (see supplemental table 45-2). Also, White students (53 percent) were more likely than Black (38 percent), Hispanic (41 percent), and Asian (39 percent) students to be employed. Approximately 54 percent of students attending 2-year colleges full time were employed, and this percentage did not differ by school type (public vs. private). Full-time students attending 4-year colleges were less likely than full-time students attending 2-year colleges to be employed (48 vs. 54 percent) and were less likely to work longer hours (about 8 percent of 4-year college students worked 35 or more hours per week compared with 14 percent of 2-year college students). Among full-time students enrolled in 4-year colleges, students in public colleges were more likely than students in private colleges to be employed (50 vs. 42 percent).

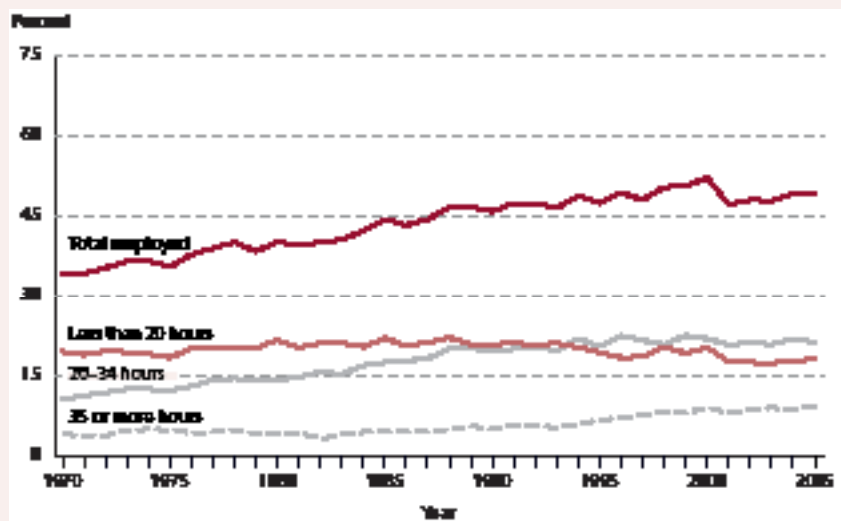
NOTE: College includes both 2- and 4-year institutions. College students were classified as attending full time if they were taking at least 12 hours of classes (or at least 9 hours of graduate classes) during an average school week and were classified as part time if they were taking fewer hours.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1970–2005.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Note 2
Supplemental Tables 45-1,
45-2



EMPLOYMENT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS: Percentage of 16- to 24-year-old full-time college students who were employed, by hours worked per week: October 1970 through October 2005



Employment of College Students

Table 45-1. Percentage of 16- to 24-year-old college students who were employed, by attendance status and hours worked per week: October 1970 through October 2005

Year	Full-time college students				Part-time college students			
	Percent employed ²	Hours worked per week ¹			Percent employed ²	Hours worked per week ¹		
		Less than 20 hours	20–34 hours	35 or more hours		Less than 20 hours	20–34 hours	35 or more hours
1970	33.8	19.3	10.4	3.8	82.2	5.0	15.8	60.3
1971	34.1	18.7	11.1	3.7	83.5	7.1	23.4	51.9
1972	35.1	19.4	11.6	3.6	83.0	6.2	23.1	53.1
1973	36.4	19.2	12.3	4.6	84.0	7.1	23.9	52.1
1974	36.5	18.9	12.3	4.8	84.0	5.9	15.9	61.0
1975	35.3	18.2	12.0	4.7	80.9	6.0	19.5	52.6
1976	37.6	19.9	12.8	4.1	84.7	7.1	23.0	53.1
1977	38.8	20.0	14.0	4.3	83.2	6.3	22.2	52.9
1978	39.9	20.2	14.3	4.7	85.9	8.4	22.4	54.0
1979	38.2	19.9	13.9	4.0	87.0	6.1	22.2	56.6
1980	40.0	21.5	14.0	3.9	84.5	7.9	22.5	52.6
1981	39.3	20.0	14.5	4.2	85.6	8.0	24.7	51.2
1982	39.9	20.9	15.5	3.0	81.2	8.6	21.6	48.3
1983	40.4	20.9	15.1	3.8	81.5	5.8	26.2	48.4
1984	42.0	20.2	16.7	4.3	84.9	5.5	22.1	55.8
1985	44.2	21.8	17.3	4.3	86.1	6.0	26.8	52.5
1986	43.1	20.4	17.6	4.3	87.3	8.2	23.4	54.8
1987	44.2	21.0	18.0	4.3	85.4	6.3	27.9	49.5
1988	46.5	21.9	19.8	4.7	88.3	5.1	27.4	54.3
1989	46.5	20.7	19.9	5.4	87.3	5.1	25.4	55.4
1990	45.7	20.6	19.3	4.8	83.7	4.0	26.0	52.7
1991	47.2	21.0	19.8	5.6	85.9	8.2	25.4	51.0
1992	47.2	20.4	20.3	5.5	83.4	7.5	27.2	47.8
1993	46.3	20.9	19.5	5.1	84.6	8.5	31.4	43.7
1994	48.6	20.1	21.7	5.8	86.3	9.8	31.1	43.8
1995	47.2	19.1	20.3	6.5	82.9	8.6	30.4	42.3
1996	49.2	18.2	22.3	7.0	84.8	8.3	27.5	48.0
1997	47.8	18.3	21.4	7.4	84.4	9.4	26.2	47.7
1998	50.2	20.2	20.6	8.0	84.1	7.0	26.8	49.3
1999	50.4	19.0	22.3	7.8	82.3	6.2	28.8	45.9
2000	52.0	20.1	21.7	8.9	84.9	8.6	27.8	47.5
2001	47.0	17.4	20.6	7.9	84.5	8.1	25.8	48.9
2002	47.8	17.3	20.9	8.5	78.9	8.7	25.3	43.4
2003	47.7	17.1	20.7	8.8	79.0	7.8	27.2	42.8
2004	49.0	17.7	21.6	8.6	81.5	8.5	27.4	44.1
2005	49.1	17.8	21.1	9.0	85.0	10.2	27.1	47.1

¹ Excludes those who were employed but not at work during the survey week; therefore, detail may not sum to total percentage employed. *Hours worked per week* refers to the number of hours the respondent worked at all jobs during the survey week.

² Includes those who were employed but not at work during the survey week.

NOTE: College includes both 2- and 4-year institutions. College students were classified as attending full time if they were taking at least 12 hours of classes (or at least 9 hours of graduate classes) during an average school week and were classified as part time if they were taking fewer hours.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1970–2005.

Employment of College Students

Table 45-2. Percentage of 16- to 24-year-old college students who were employed, by attendance status, hours worked per week, and selected characteristics: October 2005

Characteristic	Full-time college students				Part-time college students			
	Percent employed ²	Hours worked per week ¹			Percent employed ²	Hours worked per week ¹		
		Less than 20 hours	20–34 hours	35 or more hours		Less than 20 hours	20–34 hours	35 or more hours
Total	49.1	17.8	21.1	9.0	85.0	10.2	27.1	47.1
Sex								
Male	46.7	16.1	19.9	9.6	86.3	9.7	23.9	52.7
Female	51.1	19.3	22.2	8.6	84.0	10.5	29.4	43.0
Race/ethnicity ³								
White	52.9	20.6	21.8	9.2	87.3	10.2	26.3	50.4
Black	37.8	9.0	19.8	8.8	78.3	9.8!	28.1	38.9
Hispanic	41.3	10.7	19.9	9.2	84.7	7.2!	30.2	45.9
Asian	39.2	13.1	18.7	6.8	75.2	21.0!	25.3!	28.9
Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/ Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
More than one race	56.0	20.4	19.0	12.8!	‡	‡	‡	‡
School type								
2-year	54.2	15.6	23.8	13.7	82.8	11.2	25.3	45.6
Public	54.2	15.6	24.2	13.4	82.0	10.8	25.8	44.8
Private	54.6	15.4	20.5	17.0	‡	‡	‡	‡
4-year	47.7	18.4	20.4	7.8	86.8	9.3	28.5	48.3
Public	49.6	17.8	22.7	8.0	86.3	9.0	26.8	49.7
Private	42.3	20.1	13.8	7.0	88.5	10.6!	34.5	43.2
School level								
Undergraduate	48.8	17.8	21.1	8.7	84.8	10.7	28.6	44.8
Graduate	54.5	17.2	20.7	14.6	86.8	5.5!	12.7!	68.5

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

¹ Excludes those who were employed but not at work during the survey week; therefore, detail may not sum to total percentage employed. *Hours worked per week* refers to the number of hours the respondent worked at all jobs during the survey week.

² Includes those who were employed but not at work during the survey week.

³ Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

NOTE: College includes both 2- and 4-year institutions. College students were classified as attending full time if they were taking at least 12 hours of classes (or at least 9 hours of graduate classes) during an average school week and were classified as part time if they were taking fewer hours.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 2005.

Employment of College Students

Table S45-1. Standard errors for the percentage of 16- to 24-year-old college students who were employed, by attendance status and hours worked per week: October 1970 through October 2005

Year	Full-time college students				Part-time college students			
	Percent employed	Hours worked per week			Percent employed	Hours worked per week		
		Less than 20 hours	20–34 hours	35 or more hours		Less than 20 hours	20–34 hours	35 or more hours
1970	0.95	0.79	0.61	0.38	1.93	1.10	1.84	2.47
1971	0.92	0.76	0.61	0.36	1.78	1.24	2.03	2.40
1972	0.92	0.76	0.62	0.36	1.78	1.14	2.00	2.37
1973	0.94	0.77	0.64	0.41	1.72	1.21	2.00	2.34
1974	0.94	0.76	0.64	0.42	1.58	1.01	1.58	2.11
1975	0.89	0.72	0.60	0.39	1.66	1.00	1.67	2.11
1976	0.89	0.73	0.61	0.36	1.50	1.07	1.75	2.08
1977	0.90	0.74	0.64	0.37	1.49	0.97	1.66	1.99
1978	0.91	0.75	0.65	0.39	1.43	1.14	1.72	2.05
1979	0.90	0.74	0.64	0.37	1.39	0.99	1.72	2.05
1980	0.90	0.75	0.64	0.36	1.48	1.10	1.71	2.05
1981	0.88	0.72	0.63	0.36	1.41	1.09	1.73	2.01
1982	0.93	0.77	0.69	0.33	1.61	1.16	1.70	2.06
1983	0.94	0.78	0.68	0.37	1.65	1.00	1.87	2.13
1984	0.93	0.76	0.70	0.38	1.54	0.98	1.78	2.13
1985	0.94	0.78	0.72	0.39	1.50	1.03	1.92	2.17
1986	0.95	0.78	0.73	0.39	1.43	1.18	1.81	2.13
1987	0.95	0.78	0.73	0.39	1.42	0.98	1.80	2.01
1988	1.03	0.85	0.82	0.44	1.46	1.00	2.03	2.27
1989	0.97	0.79	0.77	0.44	1.50	0.99	1.95	2.23
1990	0.96	0.78	0.76	0.41	1.61	0.86	1.92	2.18
1991	0.95	0.77	0.76	0.44	1.56	1.23	1.95	2.24
1992	0.94	0.76	0.76	0.43	1.61	1.14	1.92	2.16
1993	0.96	0.78	0.76	0.42	1.53	1.18	1.97	2.11
1994	0.87	0.70	0.72	0.41	1.28	1.10	1.72	1.84
1995	0.87	0.69	0.70	0.43	1.45	1.08	1.77	1.90
1996	0.88	0.68	0.74	0.45	1.47	1.13	1.83	2.05
1997	0.86	0.67	0.71	0.45	1.46	1.17	1.77	2.01
1998	0.86	0.69	0.70	0.47	1.45	1.01	1.76	1.98
1999	0.86	0.68	0.72	0.46	1.55	0.98	1.85	2.03
2000	0.86	0.69	0.71	0.49	1.38	1.08	1.73	1.93
2001	0.80	0.61	0.65	0.43	1.29	0.97	1.56	1.79
2002	0.78	0.59	0.64	0.44	1.51	1.04	1.61	1.84
2003	0.78	0.59	0.63	0.44	1.44	0.95	1.58	1.75
2004	0.76	0.58	0.62	0.43	1.44	1.04	1.66	1.84
2005	0.75	0.58	0.61	0.43	1.30	1.10	1.62	1.82

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1970–2005.

Employment of College Students

Table S45-2. Standard errors for the percentage of 16- to 24-year-old college students who were employed, by attendance status, hours worked per week, and selected characteristics: October 2005

Characteristic	Full-time college students				Part-time college students			
	Percent employed	Hours worked per week			Percent employed	Hours worked per week		
		Less than 20 hours	20–34 hours	35 or more hours		Less than 20 hours	20–34 hours	35 or more hours
Total	0.75	0.58	0.61	0.43	1.30	1.10	1.62	1.82
Sex								
Male	1.10	0.81	0.88	0.65	1.93	1.66	2.40	2.81
Female	1.03	0.81	0.85	0.58	1.75	1.47	2.18	2.37
Race/ethnicity								
White	0.90	0.73	0.75	0.52	1.55	1.41	2.05	2.33
Black	2.28	1.35	1.87	1.33	4.55	3.29	4.97	5.38
Hispanic	2.65	1.66	2.15	1.55	3.47	2.50	4.43	4.80
Asian	3.01	2.08	2.40	1.55	7.96	7.50	8.01	8.34
Pacific Islander	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
American Indian/ Alaska Native	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
More than one race	6.43	5.22	5.08	4.32	†	†	†	†
School type								
2-year	1.61	1.17	1.38	1.11	2.07	1.73	2.38	2.73
Public	1.69	1.23	1.46	1.16	2.20	1.77	2.50	2.84
Private	5.20	3.77	4.21	3.92	†	†	†	†
4-year	0.85	0.66	0.69	0.46	1.65	1.42	2.20	2.44
Public	0.99	0.76	0.83	0.54	1.90	1.58	2.45	2.76
Private	1.64	1.33	1.15	0.85	3.32	3.20	4.94	5.15
School level								
Undergraduate	0.77	0.59	0.63	0.44	1.38	1.18	1.73	1.91
Graduate	3.18	2.42	2.59	2.26	3.99	2.69	3.92	5.47

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 2005.